

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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O 102320Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 127

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1045

DEPT PASS MANAGUA SAN JOSE SAN SALVADOR TEGUCIGALPA MEXICO USUN
USMISSION GENEVA SECDEF NIACT IMMEDIATE JCS NIACT IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AIDAC FOR PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE - PACKAGE DISASTER HOSPITALS

REF: GUATEMALA 0975

1. AT 1500 FEBRUARY 10, A CAPTAIN RIVERA OF THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF CALLED THE AMBASSADOR TO ASK THE STATUS OF THE TWO PDHS WHICH WERE WAITING IN DALLAS, TEXAS FOR SHIPMENT TO GUATEMALA. AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM DEPT HAD CHECKED WITH OFFICE OF GOVERNOR OF TEXAS AND CONFIRMED THAT THERE ARE TWO PDHS BUT NO FUNDS IN TEXAS FOR THEIR TRANSPORT.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED HOSPITAL REQUIREMENTS PREVIOUS EVENING WITH MOH CASTILLO AND HAD ASKED HIM HOW MANY PDHS HE COULD PUT TO GOOD USE. MINISTER HAD SAID FOUR. GUATEMALA IS RECEIVING TWO PDHS FROM ALABAMA THIS AFTERNOON FOR WHICH TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES HAVE BEEN PAID BY USG. AMBASSADOR TOLD RIVERA HE INTENDED TO GET TWO MORE. QUESTION WAS WHERE THE OTHER TWO WOULD GO.

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3. CAPTAIN RIVERA SAID THEY WOULD GO TO THE NATIONAL

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT ALL OF THE PHD HOSPITALS BEING CONSIDERED FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE US ARE WITHOUT TENTS. AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM COL. DE LA CRUZ, HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE, HAD TOLD HIM PREVIOUS AFTERNOON THAT HOSPITALS WITHOUT TENTS WERE USELESS FOR THE COMMITTEE'S PURPOSES. HOWEVER, MINISTER CASTILLO HAD ASSURED THEY WERE NOT USELESS FOR MOH, BECAUSE MINISTRY HAD EXISTING BUILDINGS INTO WHICH PDHS COULD GO. AMBASSADOR HOPED TO OBTAIN TWO ADDITIONAL HOSPITALS AND TRANSPORTATION FOR THEM AT USG EXPENSE AS PART OF GIFT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO GUATEMALAN RELIEF EFFORT. BUT HE STRONGLY PREFERRED THAT WHATEVER US GAVE BE PUT TO GOOD USE. HE KNEW THAT MOH COULD DO SO.

4. CAPTAIN RIVERA THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR THIS INFORMATION AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT THIS TO MRS. LAUGERUD, PRESIDENT'S WIFE, WHO WAS APPARENTLY SOURCE OF THE INQUIRY.
MELOY

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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NNN

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